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The Director of Central Intelligence

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Washington, D.C. 20505

Allegation

2175/A

1 June 1978

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Over the past week or so there have been a number of articles in the press concerning intelligence. I would like to ensure that you and your Committee have the full story on these where they may have given some incorrect impressions. Rather than wait for an opportunity to brief your Committee in person, I thought I would take this opportunity to provide you some brief written comments.

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Security Council has not approved any specific covert action plan.

25X1 Another story concerned our inability to act with respect to assisting
[redacted] The facts here are that we were
being very scrupulous in ensuring that any actions we took were fully
in accord with the Presidential findings with respect to combating
international terrorism. There was a fine line to be drawn as to
25X1 [redacted] to be properly classed as "inter-
national" terrorists. The general ruling was that they are not.
Nonetheless, there was no action which the Italian government requested,
or which we felt we could usefully offer to them, which was not taken by
our government. At the time of Mr. Moro's death, however, we were still
debating a proposed new Presidential finding for the purpose of ensuring
that we did not have our hands tied if some new request or new opportunity
developed. We would not want to have had any delay if there had been
some way in which we could have assisted the Italians in saving Mr. Moro's
life.

Hope this will help with any inquiries you may receive.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley Turner
STANLEY TURNER

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